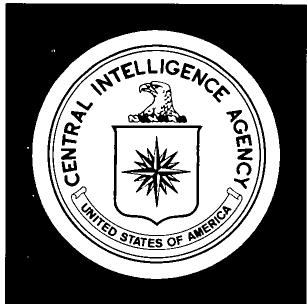


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# The President's Daily Brief

*September 14, 1976*



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*FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY*

September 14, 1976

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**USSR-CHINA:** *In a response that was correct but not necessarily conciliatory, the Soviet Union sent two Politburo members to the Chinese embassy in Moscow to sign the condolence book for Mao.*

The two Politburo members were First Deputy Premier Mazurov, who may have been standing in for the ailing Kosygin, and Foreign Minister Gromyko. They constituted the highest level delegation the USSR has sent upon the death of a Chinese leader.

Soviet central press coverage of China has been muted since Mao's death. The only comment has been in Pravda; its Sunday feature entitled "International Week" included a statement to the effect that the Western press has carried contradictory predictions about the impact of Mao's death on China's internal developments and on its relations with the US and the USSR.

Less authoritative Soviet propaganda organs are still running some material critical of Chinese foreign policy, although on September 9 the nominally unofficial broadcasts of Radio Peace and Progress dropped two regular features that are almost invariably critical of China. One was replaced by a commentary recalling all that the Soviets have done for the Chinese and reiterating Moscow's standard conditions for an improvement in relations.

The Chinese have apparently rejected the message of condolence on Mao's death sent last week by the Soviet Communist Party, as well as those sent by most East European parties. A Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman was quoted today as saying that the messages were unacceptable because the Chinese party does not have formal relations with the other parties.

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***FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY***

The increase in Soviet aerial reconnaissance along the Chinese border, which began last Thursday, continues.

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**LEBANON:** Some Lebanese political leaders who are shuttling to Damascus are also visiting Cairo for consultations.

The Egyptians, having failed to limit Syria's influence by other means, have been trying recently to play a more direct role in the Lebanese talks.

Prime Minister Karami, who talked with Syrian President Asad on Sunday, flew to Cairo yesterday to meet with Egyptian President Sadat. Another traditional Muslim leader, Saib Salam, conferred with Asad yesterday. Both Salam and Christian Phalanges leader Jumayyil are expected in Cairo today.

*Fatah leader Salah Khalaf, despite a public denial, may have met with Syrian officials Saturday in central Lebanon.*

Khalaf leads a militant faction in Fatah that opposes Arafat's policy of compromise on the question of Syria's military presence in Lebanon.

Khalaf's denial may only mean that he was dissatisfied with the position taken by Syria at the meeting. Khalaf stated yesterday that the Palestinians were prepared for a dialogue, but not on terms that made them "slaves of Syria."

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**FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY**

*YUGOSLAVIA: The government's announcement yesterday that President Tito will not be able to see Denmark's Queen Margrethe in late September seems intended, at least in part, to squelch speculation that his current indisposition is a diplomatic one.*

Tito contributed to such an interpretation by appearing several times with Romania's Ceausescu on Friday--after Paris had been informed that President Giscard's visit to Belgrade would have to be postponed because of Tito's illness. Some observers concluded that the postponement stemmed from differences between the two countries that had arisen at the Sri Lanka summit last month. Official French responses have discounted this kind of speculation.

The Belgrade announcement said that Tito would need several weeks of "indispensable rest." Tito's 25X1 medical history includes one serious bout with a liver ailment and a gall bladder operation years ago.

If Tito's doctors did detect a liver problem during recent medical examinations, hepatitis could be the problem.

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*Yugoslavia's anti-US commentaries on the hijacking by Croat emigres last Friday are indicative of the government's concern that terrorist activity could erupt in post-Tito Yugoslavia.*

Intemperate allegations and diplomatic demarches are regular features of Yugoslav reactions to any increase in the activities of emigres. The virulence of the current campaign may also reflect a fear that the hijacking was triggered by Belgrade's announcement on Friday that Tito is ailing.

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At the same time, the Yugoslavs are not unmindful that these condemnations of the US might deflect Western criticism of Belgrade's own recent treatment of the international terrorist, "Carlos," who was not detained during his stay in Belgrade last week.

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NOTES

*Nikolay Tikhonov, who was appointed a first deputy premier of the Soviet Union September 2, has not yet been formally promoted to Politburo status, but he is being treated as though he has been.*

In the Soviet photographs of the leadership assembled at the airport to welcome General Secretary Brezhnev back from Alma Ata on September 5, Tikhonov is shown in the front ranks with full members of the Politburo.

The other First Deputy Premier, Kirill Mazurov, is already a full member, and Tikhonov's promotion is to be expected. It must be announced, however, at a central committee plenum. Such a meeting is likely to be held next month.

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*The three-day work boycott in South Africa that began yesterday in the black townships of Soweto and Alexandra near Johannesburg has so far been successful.*

Absenteeism in Johannesburg businesses was reported at about 70 percent, with 90 percent of the city's bus drivers staying away. The US consulate reports that the boycott was highly organized, apparently by student leaders.

In the Cape Town vicinity, leaflets reportedly are circulating in both colored (mulatto) and black residential areas calling for a boycott on Thursday and Friday and threatening reprisals against those who do not cooperate.

Prime Minister Vorster once again made it clear, in an address Sunday night, that blacks would not get any political representation in South Africa, and that their political rights would be exercised only in the tribal homelands.

*Top Secret*